

Assistant Director, Research and Reports

6 February 1958

Deputy Chief, Economic Research

Report on OTR/LAS Meeting with Representatives of the DD/I and DD/S Areas

25X1A9a As directed, I attended the subject meeting together with [REDACTED] to assist in representing ORA. The meeting, as you will recall, was convened by the Office of Training to discuss with senior personnel of the DD/I and DD/S Areas the extent of the area training courses being offered by OTR, and to solicit subjects and comments from the DD/I and DD/S both on the utility of subject courses and on ways and means of improving them.

2. Essentially every major component of both the DD/I and DD/S was represented. I do not have a complete list of those present, but the roster included [REDACTED] Deputy Director of Training; [REDACTED] Director, Office of Personnel; [REDACTED] DAD/CR; [REDACTED] DAD/SI; [REDACTED] Special Assistant to the DD/S; [REDACTED] DAD/NE, [REDACTED] Special Assistant, DD/I; [REDACTED] Chief, FDD; [REDACTED] Office of Security, and of course, [REDACTED] and myself. There were a few others who were also present from elsewhere than the Office of Training, including a couple from OCI, but I unfortunately do not have their names.

3. After a few brief remarks by several representatives of the Office of Training, each of the DD/I and DD/S visitors was asked in turn to offer comments and suggestions on the area training courses. To make a rather long story rather short, the attitude of the DD/S representatives seem to parallel rather closely that which had been presented by the DD/P. These people, almost without exception, were generally favorable to the area courses being offered since they were understandably preoccupied with providing a good orientation and a usable fund of knowledge to the employees they were sending in small numbers overseas. Their people generally engaged in service functions, usually have very little in the way of area knowledge relative to foreign countries having been selected for their jobs on the basis of their technical competence, and as a result, these people find that exposure to even elementary training pays dividends.

SUBJECT: Report on OTR/LAS Meeting with Representatives of the
DD/I and DD/S Areas

4. As might be expected, the reaction of the DD/I spokesmen was notably less enthusiastic. I was called upon to present the views of the Economic Research Area rather early in the sequence and briefly made the following points:

The kind of area training in which we are normally most interested is on a more professional level than is being offered by the Language and Area School of OTR in the sense that we want our people to focus heavily on the economic aspects of the countries of the Bloc. Because of this, we tended to rely principally on established institutions of higher learning both in the Washington area and elsewhere in the country, and to regard the LAS curriculum more as a supplement to the established schools. External training, from our point of view, had an additional advantage of our people of being creditable for various academic degrees. I went on to say, however, that our attitude toward these area courses should not be construed as negative. A good many of our people were participating both as students and lecturers and that for particular purposes we found such courses to be quite useful.

Statements by other DD/I representatives closely paralleled the sentiments indicated above with minor variations.

5. After the circle had been completed the meeting was thrown open to general discussion. The point that had impressed everyone was the striking divergence of view as between the DD/P and DD/S on the one hand and the DD/I on the other. There was some discussion of the possibility of finding a middle ground which would satisfy both sides. In this discussion, naturally OTR tended to take the affirmative view while the DD/I participants were more skeptical. In the course of this general discussion it was interesting to note that [REDACTED] attitude toward these courses was strongly favorable, based essentially on his preoccupation with improving the quality of DD/P representation abroad. He is persuaded that knowledge and understanding of foreign countries and their peoples are all too scarce in the DD/P and from this point of view, he said, less than half of the personnel overseas are really adequate for their jobs. I believe, however, that he was impressed just as were the rest of us with the sharp distinction between the needs of DD/I and the rest of the Agency.

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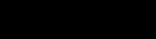
SUBJECT: Report on OTR/LAS Meeting with Representatives of the
DD/I and DD/S Areas

6. On balance, I believe the meeting was probably a useful exercise and should be of benefit to OTR in giving them additional insight on the needs and interests of the several offices. On the other hand, it would not contribute much by way of an answer to their fundamental problem of how to contrive courses that will simultaneously meet the divergent needs of the DD/P and DD/I. The tone of the meeting was thoughtful and all hands appeared to do their best to achieve a constructive outcome. Although the results will not be dramatic in the sense that new and different policies will immediately emerge, there seems little question that this kind of meeting is in the general interest of all concerned and probably should be repeated from time to time.

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